

THE BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

VOL. XLIV.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5, 1851.

No. 5.

REPORT OF THE SANITARY COMMISSION OF MASSACHUSETTS.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

WE have looked long and earnestly for this report, and are glad to see it now. The subject of a sanitary survey of the State has been for some years in agitation by the friends of the measure. They have labored zealously and hopefully, in the confidence, that, sooner or later, some plan would be adopted by public authority for ascertaining the sanitary condition of the people.

This project originated, in this country, with the American Statistical Association, in 1847. After mature consideration, they prepared a memorial, setting forth the need of a sanitary survey, and the advantages that might flow from the measure. This memorial was presented to the Legislature in 1848, and was referred to the committee on the judiciary. There the petitioners had an opportunity of being heard; but as the subject, however familiar and important to those who had given it much attention, was new to the Legislature and the people, it was therefore thought advisable to print a large edition of the memorial, for the use of Legislators and for general distribution through the State, and then to refer the whole matter to the next General Court. In the meantime the arguments and the facts of the petitioners could be read and examined by the people, and their representatives, in another year, would be prepared to give the matter an intelligent and probably a favorable consideration. This memorial was printed as House Document No. 16 for 1848.

In May, 1848, this subject was proposed to the Massachusetts Medical Society. They referred it to the Counsellors, who at their next meeting thought it a matter of importance, and prepared a petition to the government to adopt the proposed measure. The memorial of the Counsellors was presented to the Legislature in 1849. The House of Representatives referred this and the former memorial of the Statistical Association to a select committee, who, after giving the friends of the measure a patient hearing, advised that a large edition of both memorials be printed. This was done, and they form House Document No. 66 of 1849.

* Report of a General Plan for the promotion of Public and Private Health; devised, prepared and recommended by the Commissioners appointed under a Resolve of the Legislature of Massachusetts, relating to a Sanitary Survey of the State. Presented April 25, 1850. Octavo, pp. 514. Boston, Dutton & Wentworth, State Printers.

At the very end, the last day but one of the session, a resolve was passed, authorizing the Governor "to appoint three persons to be commissioners to prepare and report to the next General Court a plan for a sanitary survey of the State, embracing a statement of such facts and suggestions as they may deem proper to illustrate the subject." Five hundred dollars was appropriated to pay the commissioners for their time and travel, at the same rate as is paid to the members of the Legislature.

The Governor appointed Lemuel Shattuck, Esq., of Boston; Dr. Jehiel Abbott, of Westfield; and Nath. P. Banks, Esq., of Waltham, as the commissioners. The principal burden of making this inquiry and of writing the report fell upon the chairman. Their report was finished in 1850, and presented then to the Legislature, and by that body ordered to be printed. And now, in 1851, the report is printed and offered to the present General Court for their adoption. This is the fourth Legislature that has had this matter under consideration; and it is for them to say whether the government of this intelligent Commonwealth shall take as much pains to ascertain the sanitary condition and circumstances of the people, as the aristocratic and monarchical governments of England and France have already taken to learn the health of their subjects.

The plan of this commission goes beyond that of the original projectors of the measure. They proposed that the government should, through some officer or commission, cause an investigation to be made of the present sanitary condition of the people, to learn whether there are any differences of health and life in different situations and classes of society; and, if such should be found, to ascertain the circumstances and conditions that accompany these differences, and whether they are removable.

It was supposed that, when this survey should be made and the facts published, other measures would be suggested and demanded by the people and adopted by the government, for the removal of evils discovered to exist, for the protection of the life and health, and for securing the best sanitary condition of the people of this State. They supposed this would be a work of gradual growth. They were willing to limit their first requests to small beginnings, the mere preliminary inquiry, for they thought not only that this was all that the Legislature and people were then prepared to undertake, but that, out of the information thus obtained, reasons and arguments would be found for an efficient plan of removing and preventing the evils which would be discovered, and then a complete and well-adapted sanitary police would be ultimately organized and established throughout the State. But our commission thought otherwise, and have entered at once into all the length and breadth of sanitary organization and reform, and propose that the people grasp the whole matter in the beginning, and put it immediately into operation.

The plan of the commission proposes a new and thorough sanitary organization of the whole State. They propose the repeal of all the laws now in existence respecting health, and the establishment of an entirely new and a complete code which shall suit the present wants of the people, meet all the exigences of the present time, and provide for the security of the future.

We should be glad to publish the whole of this law. We desire that our readers and all the people of this Commonwealth should see and understand this complete plan of providing for and protecting public health by legislation. But we have not room for the whole, and we must be content with giving an abstract of its principles and most important details, referring our readers to the report itself, which we trust will be found in the hands of the public authorities and of the physicians of all the towns and cities, and accessible to every citizen of the State.

The proposed law provides for the following purposes.

The establishment of a General Board of Health for the whole State, and of Local Boards of Health in each town and city. The General Board of Health is to consist of seven persons, appointed by the Governor and Council, together with the Governor and Secretary of the Board of Education, who shall be ex-officio members.

The Local Boards of Health are to consist of three, five or seven members, to be appointed by the Selectmen of the towns and the Mayor and Aldermen of cities, together with the Chairman of the Selectmen or the Mayor, and the Town or City Clerk, or the Registrar, if there be one, who shall be ex-officio members.

The appointed members of these boards of health are to be somewhat permanent. Each one after the first is to hold his office as many years as there are members appointed. One is to go out every year, and his place filled by re-appointment or by another. Thus the boards may ever be renewed in part, but never suddenly changed.

The law does not specify the composition of the General Board, but in another part of the Report the Commission say :—

"We recommend, that the Board, as far as practicable, be composed of two physicians, one counsellor at law, one chemist or natural philosopher, one civil engineer, and two persons of other professions or occupations; all properly qualified for the office by their talents, their education, their experience and their wisdom." The law provides that the General Board appoint a Secretary, who shall be the principal executive officer. The duties of the Board are,

To superintend the execution of the sanitary laws of the State.

To consider and decide upon sanitary questions submitted to them by the State, cities, towns and local boards.

To advise as to location and arrangement of public buildings, and the sanitary regulations of public institutions.

To visit public charitable institutions.

To instruct the local boards as to their powers and duties.

To superintend the decennial census, and prepare the reports.

To report annually to the Legislature the history of their doings and of the sanitary condition of the State, with such suggestions as may be for the public benefit.

They may expend fifty dollars a year in books relating to sanitary matters, for their use and for that of their successors in office.

The labor of these duties is to come principally on the Secretary. He is to superintend the registration of births, marriages and deaths, and prepare the annual report, which is now done in the office of the Secretary of State.

He is to superintend the decennial enumeration of the people, and prepare the tables and report.

He is to make a sanitary survey of any town or district of the State, when directed by the Board.

He is to collect the reports from the several cities and towns, and digest the facts and suggestions which are in them, and those which he may obtain from other sources, into one report, which he shall annually prepare for the Board.

He is to diffuse, as much as possible, through the State, all the information he can obtain, "to the end that the laws of health and life may be better understood, the causes of disease ascertained and removed, the length of human life extended, the vital force and productive power increased, and the greatest amount of physical improvement and happiness attained and enjoyed."

For these purposes, the report recommends, that the Secretary be a man of talent, learning and tact, and have great strength of character. "He should know what to do, and how to do it; what information to obtain, and how to obtain it. He should be thoroughly educated in the science of public health, and the causes and prevention of disease; and be capable of arranging, analyzing, abstracting, combining and publishing, the facts that may be collected, with proper deductions and conclusions from them, in such form as will be most useful to science and contribute most to the improvement of practical life." He should devote his whole time and energies to the work, and for this he should receive a competent reward.

The law requires that the Local Boards of Health execute all the sanitary laws of the State, and the rules and orders of the General Board, and "endeavor, as far as practicable, to prevent disease and save life, by removing the causes of disease and mortality." The Local Board shall appoint one of their number as Secretary; "and if need be, another to be Medical Health Officer and another to be Surveyor." They may expend a limited amount of money, according to the population of the city or town, in the purchase of sanitary works. The medical health officer is to ascertain the existence, locality, circumstances, and probable causes of sickness, and especially of epidemic or contagious diseases, and call public attention to nuisances, and all other matters, circumstances and habits that militate with public health, and make report of all these facts and opinions to the Local Board.

The surveyor is required to prepare for the use of the board a map of the town or any part of it, showing the location and grades of roads and streets, natural and artificial ponds, and all places which may be suspected to be the sources of miasms; and make all investigations as to localities which the board may require.

The Local Boards may make rules—

"For ascertaining the causes of death, the prevailing diseases and their atmospheric, local or personal causes; the amount and kind of sickness in different sections and classes of people."

For preventing or mitigating disease.

For the relief of persons afflicted or threatened with disease.

For vaccination of the inhabitants.

"For removing, destroying or preventing nuisances."

"For restoring or removing persons or articles infected with smallpox or other contagious disease."

For establishing hospitals for contagious or malignant diseases.

For establishing sewerage and drainage, and the removal of offal, &c.

For purifying vessels, buildings and places dangerous to health.

For regulating the location or exclusion "of pigsties, slaughter-houses, chemical works, and any employment dangerous to health."

For warming and ventilating school-houses and other public buildings, and preventing evils arising from crowded lodging houses, and cellar dwellings.

For preventing the sale of unwholesome food or drink.

"For preventing or mitigating the sanitary evils arising from the sale of intoxicating liquors, and from haunts of dissipation."

For the management of cemeteries and burials.

For the registration of births, marriages and deaths.

The Board of Health of any town may establish quarantine.

Magistrates and other officers, and all citizens, are required to aid in executing the sanitary rules and laws. Sheriffs, marshals and constables are required especially to remove or destroy articles dangerous to public health; to remove persons or articles infected with contagion; to break open and enter, in the day-time, any house, or other building or place containing any person or article infected with smallpox, or any dangerous nuisance; and to impress houses, attendants and other necessities for the sick.

Whenever any one is sick of smallpox or other contagious or malignant disease, the household or the attending physician must give notice thereof to the Local Board.

The owners of infected houses or articles must pay for the cleansing or the removal. But the town must pay for the services of officers and assistants, and for houses, and articles taken for the use of the sick.

The Local Board shall give notice to the General Board of the existence of any epidemic or contagious disease, and then the General Board shall adopt measures for mitigation or prevention.

"Any one injured, either in his comfort or in the enjoyment of his estate, by any nuisance, may have an action on the case for the damages sustained thereby."

The plan of sanitary organization and police proposed in this law is complete and effective, and if adopted will meet the sanitary wants and conditions of the people, and provide against sanitary evils that may otherwise appear in time to come.

This law is explained and enforced in a series of fifty recommendations, in which are shown the advantages and applications of its provisions, and which are worthy the careful attention of the Legislature and people. We have not time or space to quote or even analyze all these recommendations, but there are some that should not be passed over without notice.

The first and most important is the sanitary organization of the State, with the General and Local Boards of Health, to be composed of men of

character and learning, who shall be endowed with authority to inquire into and watch over the general sanitary condition of the Commonwealth and the several towns and cities.

This plan of the commission for the sanitary organization is similar to the arrangement for the supervision and aid of common school education. The Board of Education has general oversight of all the schools in the State, while the local committees, by their universal presence, have under their supervision the schools and the interests of education in every town and district. The Board of Education gives uniformity and efficiency to the whole system; they gather the knowledge, the experience and the opinions from all the people, and concentrating these in their reports they send them back to the whole.

The General Board of Health, like the Board of Education, is to be composed of men, who, by their education, their talents and their habits, are the best fitted to take charge of the matters which are placed in their hands. They must be able to comprehend and provide for all general sanitary wants and difficulties of the State. They must look carefully after the condition of all, gather the information of the causes of ill health from every part, and condensing this in their reports distribute it again to the whole.

The Local Boards of Health, ever present in every town, will watch carefully for sanitary evils and nuisances, ascertain whether and to what degree they can be removed or mitigated, and take effectual means for these purposes. Or, if neither of these can be done, they can give the people warning, so that they come not to dwell in, or remove from, the sources of disease. Their reports of diseases and mortality, and of the co-existing circumstances, will throw much light on the causes and origin of disease, and enable the public authorities and the people to take due measures for their amelioration or extinction.

The Local Boards are to be selected by the several town and city authorities, and to be men of character for education, intelligence and fitness for their office, and well established in popular confidence. Their character and position will give them great efficiency, and enable them to accomplish much for the purpose of their appointment. They are to hold their offices for periods of several years, so that the board will never suffer from frequent and sudden changes, but will be sufficiently permanent to form and carry into effect continuous plans of sanitary administration. And as the term of each one's office expires in three, five, or seven years, the board will not be so fixed as to be beyond popular reach or change. Thus their administration may be stable, and yet it may frequently derive new and fresh strength from the annual appointments.

The 18th recommendation of the commission proposes, "that in laying out new towns and villages, and in extending those already laid out, ample provision be made for a supply, in purity and abundance, of light, air and water; for drainage and sewerage, and for cleanliness."

This is a matter of vital importance to a large portion of the people of this State and the United States, in this and in all succeeding generations. Our old cities are growing rapidly, and many of our towns are becoming compact cities, and extending their borders with the increase

of their inhabitants. The increase of our population is very much greater in the cities and large towns than in the rural districts. The commission say, "nearly the whole of the increase of the population of Massachusetts, during the last twenty years, is to be found in the cities and villages."

There is a wonderful difference in the degree of health and strength, in the value of life, and in the amount of productive force and of personal comfort, that can be enjoyed in the city and country. Of a thousand children that are born in either place, more arrive to productive and self-sustaining years in the country than in the city; and to those who thus do reach the maturity of manhood, the average duration of years of strength and power to labor is greatest in the country.

It is thus a matter of importance to our people to learn to what extent this difference of health and life exists, and whether it is connected with circumstances and conditions that may be assumed as causes of disease, and whether these causes are necessarily inherent in density of population, and to what degree of density population can be compacted without impairing their vital force.

All the evidence now presented to us from the English and French investigations, and from the few general inquiries made in this country, shows that there is a constant relation between mortality and density of population; that this is found from comparison of both the city with the country, and the more, with the less, crowded parts of the same city. It is now believed that this difference of the value of life is, in a great degree, due to the difference in the arrangement of the streets and courts, their direction, width and grades; to the degree to which the air is allowed to enter and pass through to ventilate them; to the cleansing the surface of the offal and other filth, that necessarily gather in the streets and courts; and to the degree of drainage of the surface water, and the under-ground sewerage. It is found that many diseases, and especially fevers, cholera, and others of epidemic or endemic nature, prevail most in those districts of cities, where there is the least external and internal ventilation, where there is no well-established drainage above or sewerage below the ground, where the rain waters and the waste waters from the dwellings are suffered to stagnate and evaporate on the ground, and send forth their foul effluvia and their miasms to contaminate the atmosphere. Dr. T. Southwood Smith says, it is a general law, that good drainage, sewerage and surface draining, and health, go together; that filth and disease walk hand in hand; that a map of the sewers may be generally taken as a map of the healthy parts of a city; and finally, that where the sewers and the scavengers are not found, there fever makes its most destructive havoc.

These evils, which have been found so abundant in old cities, may be provided against and in great measure prevented in our new cities, and in the exterior of the old ones, by an organized and judicious system of laying them out, in reference to their influence upon the health and life of those who shall afterwards inhabit them.

Unfortunately the arrangements of these streets in respect to their direction, width and grade, is left very much to the land proprietors, who lay

them out in reference to the sale of lots upon their borders. If the whole site of a city or even any large suburb, were the property of one proprietor or of one united company, as was the town of Lawrence, it might, like that, be laid out according to one comprehensive plan, and the wants and the health of a dense population, at least as dense as health admits, might be provided for. But where these lands are divided among many, and each one is desirous of having his own accessible and saleable, the direction, width and grade of the streets are determined by the effect which they will have on the value of each one's lots, and not by the consideration of future health of those who shall dwell on them.

There are now nine cities in this State; these are rapidly expanding their borders, and condensing their interior; and there are other towns fast approaching in population the requisite condition of twelve thousand in order to become cities also. If these nine could have been originally laid out, or if their new parts could now be laid out, in each case, according to one large plan, which should be made solely in regard to the future good of the people, to their health, productive power and longevity, the advantages in the long run, from this measure, would be almost incalculable.

The long and exceedingly valuable report of the English Commissioners upon the health of towns, in three folio volumes, contains a series of important measures to be established by the British Parliament for the good of new towns which may thereafter be created, or new districts of old towns which may be expanded. These propose especially to authorize the city or town governments to cause all the lands, that are to be built over, to be first surveyed by the town or city surveyor, and the plan, grade and width of all the streets determined in a manner most favorable to the health of the future inhabitants, and thus secure them and their posterity through successive generations from the sanitary evils that result from the crowded, narrow, undrained and unventilated streets, that exist in many old and in some new cities.

When the plan and charter of the city of Worcester were under consideration of the Legislature of this State, the attention of those who had this matter in their charge was requested to these English reports, and especially to these recommendations that were proposed to be incorporated into the charters of all new cities and appended to the charters of the old ones, and they were urged to put those or similar provisions into the charter of the proposed city. As Worcester had always been a pattern town, it was then desirable that it should become a pattern city, and be established, at its beginning, on the basis of the best experience and wisdom of the world.

If these provisions could have been incorporated into the charter of Worcester, and the city authorities endowed with power to establish the best plan and arrangement of streets, and the best sanitary organization over the territory then vacant, the gain in life and health, and personal enjoyment, in the productive power, and in the actual income and wealth of the people, the saving of the cost of sickness and pauperism, through all coming time, would have been almost incalculable.

These reasons were urged in regard to Worcester, which was then

under consideration ; and it was thought, that, if these provisions could have been incorporated into the charter of that city, they would be also adopted in all others that should be thereafter established. But the friends of this sanitary measure failed. It was feared, by the friends of the city, that the proposition of any new condition might be a stumbling block to its progress ; it would probably cause the loss of some votes, and perhaps peril the charter itself. It was, therefore, dropped, and the new city came into being with all the imperfections in sanitary organization that have weighed so heavily on other and older cities ; and it may be doomed to suffer the evils of narrow streets, of imperfect drainage, defective ventilation, want of common and open grounds, and all the consequent blight of health and depression of life in some of its inhabitants, that have grown up with and adhere to older cities.

The plan of South Boston was drawn, and the arrangement, direction, width and grade of the streets determined, while the land was vacant, and long before these streets were actually laid out. The extension of the city of New York over Manhattan Island was anticipated in the same way. Thus, in both of these places, wide and straight streets, and proper grades for drainage, were provided for, before private interest interfered to disturb the uniformity of the general plan.

In 1849, the town of Dorchester, by public vote, instructed their Selectmen to propose a plan, according to which all streets in future should be laid out, as to width, direction and grades, in reference to the probability that the town would ultimately become a city with a compact population. The Selectmen reported as to the width and grade of such streets as might be asked for or offered to the town for acceptance. But they had no authority to lay out or determine a plan for the whole town, or of such parts as will probably become densely inhabited. The law makes no provision for this purpose, and consequently the arrangement of the streets in that growing town is left to the interest of proprietors, who can run their streets in any direction that will bring their lots to the most advantageous sale.

There is need of a law to meet this class of cases. And the law proposed by this commission is adequate to the purpose. We commend the whole report, and especially the law and the fifty recommendations, to the careful consideration of the legislature and the people. E. J.

REPORT OF A COMMITTEE OF THE MASSACHUSETTS MEDICAL SOCIETY ON HOMŒOPATHY.

ADOPTED BY THE COUNSELLORS, OCT. 2, 1850, AND ORDERED TO BE PRINTED.

[Communicated to the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal by the Committee on Publication.]

At a meeting of the Counsellors of the Massachusetts Medical Society, held May 30th, 1850, an application was made by Dr. Isaac Colby, of Salem, to resign his Fellowship, assigning as a reason for so doing, that he had become a convert to the doctrines of homœopathy. It was therefore "resolved, that the documents (Dr. Colby's papers) be referred to a committee of three, whose duty it shall be to devise some course

of action to be pursued by the Society in regard to all homœopaths, and report at the next meeting."

The undersigned regret that they were selected to serve on this committee, because they feel that the subject is a delicate one, and that any course which may suggest itself will be attended with some degree of difficulty and embarrassment. At the same time, however, they do not intend to shrink from the duty that has been imposed on them. They are satisfied that the period has arrived when the Society should decide and make known what position it intends to take in relation to homœopathic practitioners. Whether it means to regard them as fellow-laborers in the great cause of science and humanity, in which its own members profess to be engaged; or whether it will hold no communion with them, but place them on the same footing with the various classes of irregular and empirical practitioners with whom it acknowledges no fellowship.

It is obvious that one of these courses must be adopted, and yet the Society will bring upon itself some degree of odium whichever it may choose to pursue. It does not seem right that individuals, who hold in contempt the commonly-received doctrines of the medical profession, as received by this Society, and who freely denounce them as unsound, if not unsafe, should at the same time be enrolled as members of our deeply-cherished institution, and thus gain a position, which they perhaps would not otherwise have so readily attained.

On the other hand, it may probably be urged, that some of the practitioners of homœopathy are men of talent and education, who have been well instructed in the commonly-received doctrines of medicine, but who, from some new light with which they have been favored, feel bound to abandon them and adopt a very different course of practice from that pursued by the great mass of medical men. That they have done nothing to forfeit their good name; that they are acting conscientiously, being fully convinced that the world was in the dark in relation to the healing art, till it was enlightened by the revelation of Hahnemann.

The Committee are not disposed to deny the truth of this statement; at the same time they cannot perceive that it should have any influence on the course which the Society may think proper to adopt.

A great majority, probably, of the Fellows of our institution believe, that the homœopathic physicians are mistaken in their views of the nature of disease and the mode of treatment. They believe that the system is radically wrong; based on false views of pathology; resting rather on gratuitous assumptions than well-founded facts. They do not believe that there is anything to support their doctrine of the nature of disease, or their principles of its treatment, or their mode of administering remedial agents. It is of no consequence to us whether this system is adopted by individuals in good faith, from a conviction of its truth, or whether it is taken up from mercenary or other sinister motives. If the system be a bad one, mischievous and unsafe when carried into practice, it is of very little consequence to the community whether its disciples are honest or not; whether they are trying to dupe others, or are merely duped themselves.

The Committee, however, have neither time nor inclination to discuss

at large the doctrines of homœopathy ; nor do they think it necessary to do so, as they have no doubt that the subject is well understood by most of the Fellows of this Society. They will merely remark, that in their opinion, the boasted cures that have been effected by this mode of practice are attributable to the unaided efforts of nature ; to the fact, that the medical attendant did not interfere with the natural restorative processes, by means of which a vast many of the maladies to which human nature is subjected are brought to a favorable issue. It is enough for us to believe that the doctrine of the origin of disease, of the principles by which it should be managed, and the method of administering remedial agents, as proposed by Hahnemann and his disciples, are untrue and unsafe, and that therefore we cannot give to those who adopt this mode of practice the sanction of our Society by receiving them as members of our fraternity. We cannot say to them in good faith, as we do in our diploma to all who become our associates, that they are well skilled in the healing art, and most worthy of the honors and privileges of the Society.

It does not seem to your Committee that either the homœopathic practitioners or the community at large would have any right to complain of this course. If these practitioners honestly believe the system they have adopted, they can surely have no wish for any professional connection with individuals whose doctrines they repudiate ; and the public certainly could derive no advantage from an association, whose members entertained such discordant opinions.

It would, perhaps, be doing injustice to homœopathy, if it were not admitted that the promulgation of its doctrines had, at least indirectly, been of some service to the cause of medical science. It may have taught us to place more confidence in the curative powers of nature, and less in medicinal agents, in the management of disease, than we have hitherto done ; and it may well be doubted, if it has exerted any salutary influence beyond this.

It cannot be denied by any one, who has given any considerable degree of attention to the subject, that the present period is an inauspicious one for the success of any medical theory, that does not rest on a substantial basis. At no time in the history of the world, has the science of medicine been cultivated on principles so philosophic as at the present. All theories have been abandoned ; we hear nothing of the humoral pathology or the doctrine of solidism. There are none at the present day who acknowledge themselves to be the disciples of Boerhaave or Hoffman ; of Cullen or Brown ; and there is not probably an individual who now supports the once popular doctrines of Rush or Broussais. All the true votaries of our profession are earnestly seeking for truth alone ; accumulating facts by patient and toilsome observation of disease and effects, and drawing conclusions from them by the cautious process of inductive reasoning. At no period have the various changes which disease produces in the different tissues, organs and secretions of the body been subjected to so rigid a scrutiny. The microscope and animal chemistry have been enlisted in the service of the pathologist, and we are already reaping rich fruits from his labors. If we have not yet gained

more control of disease than our predecessors had, we better understand the power of remedies; we know more than was formerly known, when it is best to withhold them altogether, relying on the powers of nature, and when they can be used advantageously in aid of those powers.

At such a period as this, your Committee cannot persuade themselves that the doctrines of homœopathy can have any very extensive or permanent influence; at the same time, they think that it is the duty of this Society to avoid giving them its sanction in the slightest degree. They therefore beg leave respectfully to offer for the consideration of the Counsellors the following resolutions:—

1st. *Resolved*, That any Fellow of this Society who makes application to resign his Fellowship in consequence of having adopted the principles and practice of homœopathy, may be permitted to do so, on paying his arrearages; but he shall not be entitled to any of the privileges of Fellowship, nor shall his name be retained in the list of Fellows.

2d. *Resolved*, That a diploma from a homœopathic institution shall not be received as any evidence of a medical education; nor shall the Censors of this Society regard the attendance on the lectures of such institutions, nor the time passed at them, as qualifications which shall entitle candidates to an examination for a license from this Society.

Which is respectfully submitted, by

GEO. HAYWARD,
J. B. S. JACKSON, } *Committee.*
O. W. HOLMES.

Boston, Oct. 2, 1850.

HERNIA REDUCED BY CUPPING.

EXTRACT FROM MY NOTE BOOK.

DEC. 26, 1843.—Called in the evening to see J. P., an aged man, laboring under strangulated scrotal hernia of the right side. The patient was lying upon his back, with the right foot drawn up; face anxious, almost death-like; rigors; pulse frequent and irritable; thirst; great pain in the tumor. Hernia of many years standing—had never worn a truss.

Strangulation has now continued eight hours. Tumor as large as a coffee cup, pear-shaped, very tense, hard and tender. Put two pillows under the hips, and flexed the limbs as much as possible. Taxis unsuccessful. R. Ol. tigllii, gtts. ij. Apply snow folded between cloths. Taxis again unsuccessful. Gave morphine, gr. $\frac{1}{4}$; tart. ant. et pot., gr. j.

After trying nearly an hour at intervals, without success, and giving another grain of morphine, sent for the family physician, Dr. Thomas, of Stow. In two hours more the doctor arrived, when he attempted to reduce the tumor, without success. Patient affected by the anodyne, and the pain lessened. Dr. Thomas directed the use of tobacco enema, but was obliged to send three miles for a syringe. While the messenger was absent, I found a quart *mug*, from which I extracted the air by burning a piece of paper within it, and applied it as a cupping-

glass to the right side of the abdomen, just above Poupart's ligament. It fastened firmly, and had remained on but a few minutes before the aged patient pronounced the joyful intelligence that the tumor had entirely disappeared, and before the syringe arrived his bowels had moved, and he had fallen into a quiet, easy sleep.

Waterbury, Vt., Feb. 23, 1851.

C. H. CLEVELAND, M.D.

EXTRACTION OF A NEEDLE.

To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

SIR,—In the last Journal, Feb. 26, I noticed Dr. Cleaveland's remarks on *extraction of needles*; also the *extraction* case from the London Lancet. I will state, in the outset, that it is not my intention at this time to write an essay upon needles, or the method of removing them when they become "*thorns* in the flesh;" but having had several cases of the kind, I am induced to record one that came under my observation a few days since. A boy, 10 years of age, presented himself for examination, saying that he often felt something pricking him, as he sat on his seat at school. Upon examination of the glutei muscles of the left side, a hard substance, running parallel with their fibres, was discovered about three fourths of an inch from the surface. The mother said her attention was called to it when the boy was only three weeks old; but she could not account for its being there, or conjecture what it was. It then occupied a transverse position, and has only moved half way round since.

An opinion was given that it was probably a needle, and that the boy had better submit to its removal. Consent being given, the patient was etherized, and pressing the thumb and finger as described by Dr. C., an incision was made down upon one end of the foreign body; which was seized *firmly* with a long pair of forceps, and, after some resistance, it came forth from its ten years' obscurity. It proved to be a portion of a needle, an inch in length. The distal portions of it only were wanting.

Respectfully, A. B. HALL, M.D.

Natick, Feb. 27, 1851.

THE BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

BOSTON, MARCH 5, 1851.

EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

On the River Nile—Monday, Dec. 2, 1850.—Frogs were singing merrily, in some small ponds, just over the bank, last night; and the weather is so mild that summer clothing is worn. Hearing a drum in the distance, after fastening up the boat for the night, we followed the sound, lantern in hand, accompanied by four of the crew, about a mile, through ploughed fields, pottery beds, &c., and finally came upon a village. In front of a mosque,

were men, women and children, seated on the ground, listening to the performance of a man on a shockingly bad tambourine, which he accompanied by a worse voice. At the close of each mournful stanza, as many as chose joined in a chorus. A lamp was procured from the mosque to see us with—and the Sheik ordered coffee both for ourselves and our half-naked escort of Arabs. Lighted pipes were handed to us, first by the Sheik, or first magistrate, and then by his associates, with a gravity, and with salams, that bespoke both their politeness and the supposed dignified characters of the town's guests. At a proper time, after making a present to the musician, we took formal public leave, and ascertained, on arriving on board, that the Sheik had sent three officials with us, who expected *backshiesh*! To-day we passed Negada—where the cross of a catholic convent is seen above the mud dove-cotes that make up the town. Acres upon acres of earthen water-jars, made into rafts, were moored in the river, and the shore was also lined with enough, when broken up, as they will be ultimately, to construct a mound above the rise of the Nile, for a new village. Two bouncing turbanned Arabs appeared on deck this morning, smoking, of course—one of whom our dragoman said was captain of the guard at Thebes. There is no guard there, we are informed, and this was only a deception for getting a breakfast. The weather growing warmer, yet it is still delightful. Early in the morning some trees were passed, perfectly vocal with singing birds. Laborers in the field, fishermen, &c., are entirely naked. We are now about eighteen miles from ancient Thebes—the city of a hundred gates. A poor fellow came on board to-day, to consult me in regard to a perishing eye, which was injured by a blow seven months since, and brought two ears of excellent roasted corn, hot from a straw fire. as a fee!

Tuesday, Dec. 3d.—Just returned from an examination of the mighty ruins of Luxor. Such columns of sandstone, covered, from chapter to base, with hieroglyphics, were never wrought before. They are partially buried by earth and fallen ruins, and are fractured most shamefully. Mud hovels are built up against and between some of the finest specimens of architectural designing the world ever saw. Even on the top they are profaned by pigeon-houses and piles of filth. One grand monolith, of red granite, every line being as distinctly seen as on the day of its erection, stands erect and alone in front of colossal structures, unsurpassed in the whole world for grandeur of design; and yet perhaps twenty or thirty feet of its foundation are concealed by the accumulations of ages. My notebook is the bearer of the impressions produced by the splendid ruins of Luxor. Karuah is in sight; and Thebes, on the Lybian shore, is before me, in all the venerableness of age and the majesty of its skeleton greatness. But we have decided to improve the coming breeze, and urge our way on to the cataract, while the opportunity presents; and on our return, I shall give to each and every temple, obelisk and tomb, the minute examination due to the respective claims of each. We have been exceedingly annoyed by obtrusive offers of services from guides—constituting one of the plagues of Egypt. Passed a large slave boat to-day, with a cargo of negro girls from some part of Africa. They had rude ornaments dangling from the head, and were provoked to loud laughter at our uncouth appearance in European dresses, they being scarcely covered by the coarsest remnant of a blanket.

Wednesday, Dec. 4th.—We were obliged to stop all night by a high bank, because the wind blew—the very thing most needed; but the cow-

ardly Arabs seemed to act as though it were terrific. The river is becoming narrower, and the Arabian desert comes down to the water in one place. As we approach Esne, the ancient Latopolis, where a fish was worshipped, there are seen continually square door-ways into the mountains, cut into the bold face of the rocks, from 50 to 150 feet above the base. An exploration of the historical tombs and the mummy-caves is reserved till we descend the river. Two men have just crossed the Nile on a bundle of sticks or millet-stalks. One of them balanced the scanty clothing of both, in a basket, on his head, while the other paddled fearlessly, despite an army of crocodiles around. So much for being familiar with danger. People are planting melon-seeds on shore. Some melon stalks are just springing up out of the ground, and the fruit of the last crop is still on sale. Purchased a sheep for 92 cents—half being given to the crew. They dressed it all—even the entrails, to disgusting minuteness—which shows what a luxury meat is to men who labor for one dollar a month.

Thursday, Dec. 5th.—On passing Edfou, we had a fair view of an immense pillar of a temple; but the wind being fair, it is thought best to defer a visit there till our return from Nubia. Passed the place where tradition says Moses was born. The sand-stone strata are beginning to appear, from which the old Egyptian stone-cutters quarried many a huge block. The river is swift and narrower, and the stony ridges in the distance have a rough, broken aspect, as though shattered by violence.

6th.—Within an hour's sail of the first cataract—the proposed limit by boat. We shall go round the rapids on donkeys, enter Nubia, and visit the temples of Philæ. Passed Ombus this morning, before sunrise, and saw the remains of a town, the gateway of a temple of the Ptolemaic age, and a part of the sacred edifice. A boat went by to-day from Nubia, with a lot of fine-looking black men in snow-white turbans, on their way to transact business with the governor at the Pasha's first station. A death occurred at a village while going by to-day, and the entire population were howling with strong lungs, which is kept up, like an Irish wake, it is said, two or three days. The deserts approach almost to the water's edge, and the denuded rocks, peeping out through the drifting sands, are black, cracked into blocks, and have the appearance of being discolored by fire. Had a turkey for dinner—price 17 cents! I am now dressed in summer clothing, and can hardly convince myself that in Boston it is winter, and that the snow may be flying this 6th day of December, while I am writing under protection from a scorching sun.

Saturday, Dec. 7th.—At Assouan—the ancient Syene—at the foot of the first cataract, the island of Elephantine directly opposite, with its surprising ruins in hard red granite, nilometer, remains of Roman masonry, together with the mounds, broken statues, arches, dilapidated dwellings, and the other rubbish of four thousand years. Assouan is the residence of a governor, whose province is from Kenneh, 40 miles below Thebes, to the cataract. The population, he informed me—in the course of an official visit to our boat, accompanied by his suite—is 5,300. He made inquiries in regard to the United States, and wished to know how we became a government independent of England. When informed of the process of the revolution, and the causes that led to it, his excellency rolled up his eyes, and exclaimed, Bismillah!—God is great! On informing him of the way of electing governors and the president, by the people themselves, he again raised his dignified optics, and repeated, Bismillah! We subsequently travelled around the cataract, to the island of Philæ—once the most sacred spot in the

world, in the estimation of the ancient Egyptians, so sacred that they swore by the god that sleepeth at Philæ. It is in vain to attempt a description of the extraordinary architectural splendors of that little mass of earth, now less than six acres—a point of pilgrimage for men of all nations and tongues in the civilized world. There is nothing on the continent of America with which these structures can be compared. Philæ is in lat. $24^{\circ} 3' 45''$ —Paris being $30^{\circ} 16' 22''$ —says a French tablet on one of the temples, inscribed in the 7th year of the French Republic, and signed Belzac. On the propylæa or towers of the great and once superb Temple of Isis, I raised the American flag—and it was the first time, probably, it was ever seen there. It waved gracefully, and under its protection we felt there was security, even in Ethiopia. Philæ is in Nubia—Shalel, a village above the cataract, being the first settlement beyond Egypt. Near the cluster of sacred edifices, at the termination of a beautiful colonnade, are the remnants of a temple of Æsculapius, an appropriate object for contemplation by a physician. A wilder and more confused piling up of granite boulders over a broad field, in all possible conditions—looking as though they were just rolled from a hot furnace that vitrified them—cannot be designated on the globe.

Tremont Street Medical School.—The Tremont St. Medical School was commenced in Boston in 1839, and incorporated the past year. At the time of its commencement, the various departments of instruction in medical science were divided among Drs. Jacob Bigelow, Edward Reynolds, D. H. Storer and O. W. Holmes; since which time, Drs. J. B. S. Jackson and H. J. Bigelow have been added, Dr. Reynolds retiring. The object of this school is to furnish the medical student every facility whereby he may be thoroughly educated, and to prepare him for the practical and active duties of the profession. By distributing the labor among five instructors, it must be obvious that a more systematic and perfect course of study can be pursued, than when a pupil is confined to the teachings of a single individual. Besides, the daily recitations, by the students, afford them an opportunity of acquiring the knowledge which is expected of them when they present themselves as candidates for graduation. This method of combination of medical teachers must commend itself to those who are in pursuit of a medical education, as being the *surest* way of acquiring it. In the catalogue of the past and present students of this institution, just issued from the press, we recognize among the former many names which are now enrolled in the ranks of the profession and are an honor to it.

Pennsylvania Hospital for the Insane.—The report of the Pennsylvania Hospital for the Insane, for the year 1850, by Thomas S. Kirkbride, M.D., Physician to the institution, has been received. It is a full and complete report, entering into all matters pertaining to the interests of the Hospital, and the general welfare of its inmates. There were 221 patients in the Hospital at the commencement of the year, since which 207 have been admitted, and 215 discharged—leaving, at the close of the year, 213 under treatment. Of the 215 discharged, 106 were cured, 20 much improved, 41 improved, 21 remained stationary, and 27 died. As regards the former occupation of the male patients in the Hospital, it appears that nearly every profession and trade is represented. In a table carefully prepared by the superintendent, of the admissions for the ten years past, we find given the occupation of 1,506 patients—comprising, farmers, 151; merchants, 86;

laborers, 60; clerks, 62; carpenters, 41; seamen, 27; shoemakers, 27; teachers, 23; physicians, 20; tailors, 20; blacksmiths, 14; students of law, medicine and divinity, 37, &c. &c. It will be observed, that the farmer is at the head of the list, although farming has been generally considered not only one of the healthiest of pursuits, but one in which the *mind* might be exempt from the distracting cares which pertain to some other callings. This report of Dr. Kirkbride is exceedingly interesting, and exhibits proof of an able and careful manager.

New Jersey State Lunatic Asylum.—The Fourth Annual Report of the officers of the New Jersey State Lunatic Asylum, at Trenton, has been sent us. This Hospital is under the superintendence of H. A. Buttolph, M.D., and from his very excellent report and the condition of the institution we should judge him to be worthy of the confidence reposed in him by the managers. Two hundred and twenty patients have been under treatment during the year, 32 of whom have been discharged as cured, 12 improved, 4 unimproved, and 10 deaths. As in the report of the Pennsylvania Hospital, we find that the *farmers* number more than any other occupation. Accompanying the report, is an engraving of the Hospital grounds and buildings, which are certainly beautiful, and well located. Among the means which are calculated to give character to our public hospitals, and to make the patients feel contented with their confinement while in them, are comfortable arrangements within, and an imposing display of architectural beauty without. Capacious grounds, well laid out, and ornamented with trees, shrubbery and flowers, are conducive of much happiness, even to those who have to look at them through grated windows.

Dental Medicine.—It is exceedingly gratifying to notice the advancement that has lately taken place in dental medicine. Until within a few years, little progress had been made, either in mechanical dentistry, or in the pathology of the teeth and gums. Dental operations, in times gone by, were generally performed by the *barber*, and also (as we have witnessed) by the *blacksmith* and *harness maker*. To have then said, that it was necessary to be scientifically educated for such an avocation, would have appeared ridiculous. Who could not *pull a tooth*? or, if need be, carve a block out of ivory to supply a deficiency that existed in the mouth, and so place it there as to look *near enough* like the original teeth? Then, too, the *instruments* that were made use of in those days for extracting the teeth—the very thought of them is enough to freeze one's blood. Who then thought of a dental college, with professors to lecture on the various departments connected with dental surgery? Or who supposed that large volumes, treating on the mechanical, pathological and therapeutical parts of dentistry, and most beautifully illustrated, would ever be considered necessary? Certainly, no one; but such has been the rapid progress in the art, that these things are come to pass. Dental medicine and surgery would seem to be now nearly in the zenith of perfection. We have just received from the publishers, Lindsay & Blakiston, of Philadelphia, a work on dental medicine, by Dr. Thomas E. Bond, Professor of Special Pathology, &c., in the Baltimore Dental College. It is a very valuable contribution to this department of medical science, and will be found a useful and practical guide in the hands of both the general practitioner and the dentist.

Re-print of the London Lancet.—This popular Medical Journal continues to be re-published in New York by Stringer & Townsend. No. 3 of the new series contains much interesting matter, and may be obtained at Redding & Co.'s, 8 State street, who are the authorized agents in Boston. Subscription, \$5.00 per year.

Lunatic Asylum in Iowa.—The following extract from a letter by Prof. Sanford, of the Medical School at Keokuk, Iowa, is from the *Medico-Chirurgical Journal* of that city, and shows that success is likely to attend the efforts which are making for the establishment of a lunatic asylum in that State.

"On Tuesday morning a petition for an appropriation to build a State Lunatic Asylum, signed by several hundred names, was introduced into the Senate, and immediately after, an able memorial upon the same subject, from Prof. D. L. McGugin. In this memorial, after presenting the statistics of insanity for this State, and showing the necessity of such institution, the Professor makes an eloquent appeal in behalf of this unfortunate class of our citizens, which cannot fail to excite the commiseration of every philanthropist. The census returns, in which these statistics are embraced, have not been officially received from every part of the State, and we therefore cannot indicate, exactly, the number of lunatics to be provided for; but adopting the proportion to the whole population found in other Western States, there cannot be less than forty or fifty of these unfortunate beings in Iowa. The petition and memorial referred to elicited an early action on the part of the Senate; a committee was appointed to take this important subject into immediate consideration, and it is understood they are now ready to report a bill, appropriating twenty-five thousand dollars to the erection of an asylum for the insane, at Keokuk, and making a provision for their safety and welfare until the institution can be completed. The general admission with the members of the General Assembly, that such an institution is greatly needed in the State, is a sufficient evidence of its early establishment."

American Medical Association.—The next meeting of the American Medical Association will be held in Charleston, S. C., on the *first* Tuesday in May next, instead of the *second* Tuesday, as was announced in the *Charleston Medical Journal*, and copied into this and other Journals. It is hoped that all those who have circulated this error, will correct it in season. We trust the delegation from the New England States will feel the importance of attending the Convention, and that it will be a large and friendly one. We are sure the greatest good will attend these annual meetings, and it behooves our medical friends to keep up the interest that has been manifested in them on former occasions. Besides, this will afford an excellent opportunity to see the beautiful city of Charleston, and to become acquainted with its hospitable citizens.

Dr. Lambert's Course of Lectures on Physiology, philosophically considered, will commence on Wednesday (this) evening at the Masonic Temple, at half past 7 o'clock. The regular members of the medical profession are respectfully invited to attend the course, and the presentation of their own cards at the door will insure an admittance. We bespeak a full attendance on this course of lectures.

Massachusetts State Prison.—In the last number of the Journal we took occasion, while speaking of Dr. Bemis's report of the health of the convicts in the Massachusetts State Prison, to refer to the quality of food provided for them, and to state the information that had been furnished us on the subject. We supposed that our informant could have no motive in misrepresenting such matters, as his statement was made in the common course of conversation upon the prison and prisoners, some eight months since. When the report of the officers of the institution was received, we thought it a fit opportunity to mention the alleged delinquency in connection with it. No other motive but feelings of humanity induced us to say what we did; if such a state of things did actually exist, it seemed desirable that it should be known. Since our last issue, Dr. Bemis, the physician to the prison, has informed us that we were in error in our remarks; that the food is of *better* quality than is required by law; that to his knowledge, none of the meats furnished were ever tainted; that the bread and mush are made of the best materials, and are relished by the prisoners. We have also had an interview with one of the inspectors of the prison, and have received a note from the warden, both of whom fully corroborate the statement made by Dr. Bemis. It was not our intention to do the officers of the prison any wrong by the declarations made in the last No. of the Journal, but supposed, if what we complained of was true, that those in higher authority were the ones to blame, the diet of the convicts being regulated by law. As intimated last week, it gives us pleasure to correct the error into which we were inadvertently led.

Medical Miscellany.—Influenza has prevailed to some considerable extent for the past five weeks, in Boston and vicinity. Cholera has sometimes followed such epidemics.—It is said that 22,000 *Americans* have already secured berths to go to the world's fair, in London.—A woman 120 years old is living at Gateshead, England; she walks erect, hears well and wears no spectacles.—Dr. Canterbury, a travelling dentist, has been held for trial in Greenfield, on a charge of perjury, by alleged false swearing out of jail.—A gentleman of this city offers a reward of *one thousand dollars*, to the person who will *satisfactorily* explain the phenomena of the so-called "*Spiritual Manifestations*," without reference to their being made, as they purport to be, by departed spirits.—Thomas Woodward, of Biddeford, committed suicide on Tuesday last, by taking arsenic and laudanum. After swallowing the dose, he shaved himself, knelt down and prayed for some time, and then went to bed, where he was shortly afterwards found by his wife perfectly dead.—A bill has been passed by the Senate of the United States, appropriating 10,000,000 acres of the public lands (in value \$12,500,000) to be distributed among the several States in an equitable ratio, for the benefit of the indigent insane.—The lectures in the Massachusetts Medical College close to-day.—A negro man, the property of Mr. Newnan, of Charleston, S.C., died lately, at the advanced age of 104 years.

Deaths in Boston—for the week ending Saturday noon, March 1, 78.—Males, 41—females, 37. Anemia, 1—asthma, 1—disease of the bowels, 1—inflammation of the bowels, 1—disease of the brain, 1—cancer, 1—consumption, 13—convulsions, 2—croup, 1—dropsy of the brain, 2—typhus fever, 3—typhoid fever, 2—scarlet fever, 1—lung fever, 9—gangrene, 1—hooping cough, 1—disease of the hip, 1—disease of the heart, 2—inflammation, 1—infantile, 8—inflammation of the lungs, 1—congestion of the lungs, 1—marasmus, 1—measles, 13—old age, 1—puerperal, 5—smallpox, 1—teething, 1—unknown, 1.

Under 5 years, 38—between 5 and 20 years, 14—between 20 and 40 years, 14—between 40 and 60 years, 8—over 60 years, 4. Americans, 30; foreigners and children of foreigners, 48.

Middlesex County Medical Society.—"A meeting of the members of the Massachusetts Medical Society residing in some thirty towns in the south part of Middlesex County, was held at Waltham on the 20th of February, to form a District Medical Society. The following gentlemen were chosen officers:—Dr. Josiah Bartlett, of Concord, President; Dr. Jonathan W. Bemis, of Charlestown, Secretary; Dr. Edward Warren, of Waltham, Treasurer." For the above information we are indebted to the Daily Times, of this city. When will our medical friends learn to send such intelligence to the medical press?

Meat Biscuit.—The following is the only additional account we have seen of an article of food which was noticed some months since in this Journal, and recommended by Dr. Ashbel Smith, of Texas.

"The Galveston Civilian states that a factory, with proper machinery for manufacturing meat biscuit, has been established in Galveston, Texas, by G. Borden, Jr., and is called the Meat Biscuit Factory. According to the description the meat is sliced, then boiled till all the jelly or gluten is extracted. Two pounds of this jelly, containing the nutriment of eleven pounds of meat, is then mixed with three pounds of flour, and baked till the five pounds are reduced to four. Each biscuit is then packed in pulverized biscuit of the same kind, in an air-tight case. The same Journal says the War Department have ordered a large quantity of this biscuit for the troops on the frontier; and it pronounces the article and the process of making it—a new discovery."

Population of Boston in 1850.—From a report of the census-takers of Boston, just printed, we learn that the present population is 145,758, of whom 66,072 are males and 72,716 females. Of the males, 37,465 are over, and 88,607 under 21 years; of the females, 42,244 are over, and 30,472 under 21 years. The number of colored persons is 2055, an increase of 243 only in five years. The number of children between 5 and 15 years of age, is 24,275, of whom 12,132 are of foreign parentage. Of the whole population, 54 per cent. are natives, and 46 per cent. foreign, including their children.

Prof. Paul F. Eve.—This gentleman terminated his lecture term in the Louisville Medical School on Friday, the 31st January, and started for Georgia on the 1st day of February. The connection of Prof. Eve with the Louisville School has been an eminently satisfactory one; and before his departure for the South, Prof. E. received the most gratifying testimonials from all his colleagues, the Board of Trustees of the University, and from the medical class, of the high appreciation placed upon his services. Nor was this appreciation confined to the sources named; the practising portion of the profession in the city, entertain for Prof. Eve those sentiments of respect and esteem which are commanded only by true merit. He has won a high position in Kentucky, and we earnestly hope he may long continue to retain it.—*Western Jour. of Med. and Surg.*

The "Concours" for the Chair of Clinical Surgery at the Faculty of Paris, vacant by the death of M. Marjolin, is now going on. The subject of the first paper was, "on strangulation in a surgical point of view."—*London Lancet, Jan. 25.*